



Department of Justice

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**BOWLING GREEN JURY CONVICTS COREY FERGUSON IN COCAINE
CONSPIRACY**

*– Now defunct barber shop – Fadz 4 Dayz – site of drug transactions
– Ferguson eligible for sentence of 30 years to life*

LOUISVILLE, KY - Corey Ferguson, age 36, of Alvaton, Kentucky, in Warren County, was found guilty by a federal jury in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, of conspiracy and aiding and abetting the distribution of 500 grams or more of cocaine, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a five-day trial before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court.

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the investigative efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Warren County Drug Task Force stating "it is only through the cooperative efforts of federal and local law enforcement that we can hit these organized drug dealers hard."

Ferguson had been tried for three counts of violating federal drug laws. The charges included conspiracy as well as aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine. Over the course of four days, the United States presented evidence from 13 witnesses, including three people who had direct hand-to-hand drug transactions with Ferguson and three others who bought drugs

from Ferguson through an intermediary. The evidence presented at trial showed that law enforcement officials became aware of Ferguson's involvement in drug trafficking activities in Bowling Green in 2005. During that same time period, law enforcement officials were investigating illegal drug activities conducted at the Fadz 4 Dayz barber shop. Over the course of several months, law enforcement officials gathered additional information regarding Ferguson and other members of the drug ring. With the permission of the property owner, cameras were installed to record the comings and goings at the barber shop. A confidential informant was used to make several controlled purchases of powder cocaine and crack cocaine from a co-defendant in the case.

Later in the investigation, law enforcement officials applied for and obtained a court order to allow a Title III wire intercept. Under the authority of the court order, law enforcement officials entered the barber shop and installed two cameras. The cameras provided audio and video feed. Officers monitored the audio and video from a nearby location where they made notations of activities and conversations. The United States presented clips from these recordings during the trial.

The United States also introduced certified copies of Ferguson's cell phone records. The records showed significant phone contact between Ferguson and other co-conspirators. One date highlighted during the trial concerned February 1, 2006. The United States introduced evidence for that date that showed a ½ kilo of cocaine deal between two co-defendants. The Title III wire intercept captured payment for the ½ kilo deal – concealed in a shoe box – being placed in Ferguson's car immediately after several cell phone calls and his appearance at the barber shop. The street value of the ½ kilo of powder cocaine was \$12,000.00.

In addition to evidence concerning drug activities, the United States also called witnesses concerning Ferguson's arrest. On the date in question, May 15, 2006, law enforcement officials

traveled to Ferguson's residence on Mt. Lebanon Church Road. They noticed surveillance equipment on the exterior of the home and a black Ford Explorer (a car previously driven by Ferguson) parked in the driveway. For 30-45 minutes, uniformed Kentucky State Troopers knocked on the door. When the officers first approached, they noticed a hand move a shade from inside the house and heard music stop. No one, however, would answer the door. The police later left to attend to other business. After their departure, a neighbor noticed a red pickup truck pull into Ferguson's driveway and circle the house. A black male got out of the truck and appeared to be working on an air conditioning unit while talking on a cell phone. Shortly thereafter, the garage door on the home opened and a black male left the house, entered the pickup truck as a passenger, and the truck drove away. The neighbor called the Kentucky State Police. A dispatcher sent out the information and a Trooper stopped the red truck. The Trooper located Ferguson as the passenger in the vehicle.

The maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$4,000,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of 8 years. Ferguson faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years. Due to his prior drug trafficking convictions, the United States Sentencing Guidelines call for a sentence of between 30 years and life imprisonment.

Ferguson, along with nine other individuals, were indicted in May 2006. Co-defendants Jerome Shanklin, Richard Cox, Collin Carpenter, William Downy, and Trevor Hampton have all pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Co-defendants Damon Nelson, Derrick Lander, Albert Ferguson, and Benita Ferguson are awaiting trial.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Warren County / Bowling Green Drug Task Force, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Judge Russell has ordered a presentence investigation. Sentencing should be scheduled in approximately eight to ten weeks. Ferguson remains detained in the custody of the United States Marshal Service.

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